

MINUTES
May 27, 2010
9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Jeff Goltz, Chairman
Philip Jones, Commissioner
Pat Oshie, Commissioner

The Regular meeting of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission was called to order on May 27, 2010, by Chairman Goltz. Anne Solwick, Director, Regulatory Services indicated that Item A)3. Docket UW-100830, Rainier View Water Company, Inc., Tariff Revision, should be removed from this Agenda and that it is now consumed in Item A)2. Docket UW-091466, Rainier View Water Company, Inc., Tariff Revision.

E)1. 1-000 Consent Agenda

Disposition: Commissioner Jones moved to approve the consent agenda and direct the Secretary to sign orders and/or letters necessary to affect each action. Commissioner Oshie seconded the motion. The motion carried (3:0).

UTILITIES:

A)1.01:41 mp3 Docket Number UG-100677; Northwest Natural Gas Company;
Introduces the optional pilot Smart Energy program allowing customers to voluntarily purchase offsets to the greenhouse gas emissions associated with their natural gas usage. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Ryan Dyer and Sharon Wallace, staff; Bill Edmonds, Northwest Natural Gas Company (via conference bridge)

The Commissioner's took no action, thereby allowing the proposed rates to become effective June 1, 2010, by operation of law.

A)2. 1:27:46 mp3, (Part 1) 02:50 mp3 (Part 2), and 00:00 mp3 (Part 3), heard on May 28, 2010), Docket Number UW-091466; Rainier View Water Company, Inc.; Commission consideration to allow revised rates to go into effect June 1, 2010. This filing is currently suspended. The company and staff agreed to a lower revenue requirement and revised rates. The revised rates would result in increased annual bills for some up-size meter customers, as compared to the rates the company originally proposed. The company asks for rule exemptions to allow the revised rates to become effective June 1, 2010, on less than statutory notice and to allow the company to notice customers of increases with the next billing. The company serves approximately 16,000 customers on 28 different water systems located in Pierce and Kitsap counties. The company's last general rate increase was effective July 16, 2001. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Jim Ward, Gene Eckhardt, Chris Mickelson, and Sharon Wallace, staff; Rick Finnigan, Attorney, Rainier View Water Company, Inc.; Tom McDonald, Attorney, Bethel School

District; Tom Seigel and Jim Hansen, Bethel School District; Joe Rehberger, Attorney, Bethel School District, Sally Brown, Assistant Attorney General

Disposition: Commissioner Oshie moved to 1) Allow the revised rates and tariff revisions filed by Rainier View Water Company, Inc., on May 28, 2010, to become effective June 1, 2010, on a permanent basis; 2) Grant the company's request, as permitted by WAC 480-80-122, to allow the revised rates and tariff revisions to become effective on June 1, 2010, on less than statutory notice; and 3) Grant the company's request for an exemption from WAC 480-110-425, Customer Notice, to allow the company to notify customers of increases in the next billing cycle. The notice to unmetered customers would go out at least by the next billing cycle if not earlier, and 4) The commission also moves to dismiss the complaint and order that suspended the original tariffs filed by the company. Chairman Goltz seconded the motion. The motion carried (2:1) Commissioner Jones dissented.

A)3. Docket Number UW-100830; Rainier View Water Co., Inc.; Request for rule exemptions from WAC 480-80-121 and WAC 480-110-431 to allow proposed tariff changes to become effective June 1, 2010. The proposed tariff revision would be consistent with the revised rate design proposed in docket UW-091466, which, if approved, is scheduled to become effective June 1, 2010. Tariff Revision

This item was removed from this agenda and consumed into Docket UW-091466.

A)4. 21:12 mp3 Docket Number UW-100622; South Bainbridge Water Sys., Inc.; General rate increase that proposes \$128,500 (20 percent) in additional annual revenue. South Bainbridge serves about 1,250 customers, on the south end of Bainbridge Island in Kitsap County. The company's last general rate increase was March 1, 2009. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Jim Ward, staff; Rick Finnigan, Attorney, South Bainbridge Water Sys., Inc.

Disposition: Commissioner Jones moved to issue a Complaint and Order Suspending the Tariff Revisions filed by South Bainbridge Water System, Inc. Commissioner Oshie seconded the motion. The motion carried (3:0)

B)1. 25:22 mp3 Docket Number TG-091761; Basin Disposal of Yakima, LLC; Commission consideration to allow proposed revised, higher rates to become effective June 1, 2010, on less than statutory notice. The commission granted rule exemptions to allow the company to publish revised rates to become effective June 1, 2010, on less than statutory notice and the company provided the full 30-day customer notice to allow for comments of the revised proposed rates. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Layne Demas, staff

Disposition: Commissioner Jones moved to dismiss the complaint and order suspending the filing by Basin Disposal of Yakima, LLC, and allow the revised rates filed by Basin Disposal of Yakima, LLC, on April 29, 2010, to become effective June 1, 2010. Commissioner Oshie seconded the motion. The motion carried (3:0)

B)2. 25:22 mp3 Docket Number TG-091764; Basin Disposal of Washington, LLC, d/b/a Basin Disposal of Walla Walla; Commission consideration to allow proposed revised, higher rates to become effective June 1, 2010, on less than statutory notice. The commission granted rule exemptions to allow the company to publish revised rates to become effective June 1, 2010, on less than statutory notice and the company provided the full 30-day customer notice to allow for comments of the revised proposed rates. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Layne Demas, staff

Disposition: Commissioner Jones moved to dismiss the complaint and order suspending the filing by Basin Disposal of Washington, LLC, d/b/a Basin Disposal of Walla Walla, and allow the revised rates filed by Basin Disposal of Washington, LLC, d/b/a Basin Disposal of Walla Walla, on April 29, 2010, to become effective June 1, 2010. Commissioner Oshie seconded the motion. The motion carried (3:0)

B)3. 28:53 mp3 Docket Number TG-091775; Yakima Waste Systems, Inc.; Commission consideration of allowing decreased rates for residential and commercial garbage service, increased rates for residential recycling and yard waste service, and increased rates for drop box service to become effective June 1, 2010, on less than statutory notice. The commission granted rule exemptions to allow the company to publish revised rates to become effective June 1, 2010, on less than statutory notice and the company provided the full 30-day customer notice to allow for comments of the revised proposed rates. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Nick Johnson, Mike Parvinen, and Gene Eckhardt staff; Dave Wiley, Attorney, Yakima Waste Systems, Inc.; Wendy Mifflin, Yakima County; Chris Piercy, Department of Ecology (via conference bridge)

Disposition: Commissioner Jones moved to Dismiss the Complaint and Order Suspending the Tariff Revisions filed by Yakima Waste Systems, Inc., 2) Allow the revised rates filed by Yakima Waste Systems, Inc., on May 27, 2010, to become effective on June 1, 2010, and 3) Require the company to refund to customers the difference between the rates in effect between January 1, 2010 and May 31, 2010, and the revised, permanent rates that will become effective June 1, 2010. The company must make a one-time credit by August 15, 2010. Commissioner Oshie seconded the motion. The motion carried (3:0)

B)4. 1:22:45 mp3 Docket Number TG-091933; Waste Management of Washington, Inc.; Commission consideration to allow revised rates to go into effect June 1, 2010. This filing is currently suspended. The company and staff agreed to a higher revenue requirement and revised rates. The revised rates would result in increased annual bills for some customers, as compared to the rates the company originally proposed. The company asks for rule exemptions to allow the revised rates to become effective June 1, 2010, on less than statutory notice, and to allow the company to notify customers of increases with the next billing. The company serves approximately 21,100 residential and commercial customers in the northeastern part of King County. The company's last general rate increase was effective September 1, 2005. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Christopher Mickelson, staff

Disposition: Commissioner Jones moved to 1) Dismiss the Complaint and Order Suspending the Tariff Revisions filed by Waste Management of Washington, Inc., 2) Grant the company's request for an exemption from WAC 480-70-266, Tariffs, to allow the revised substitute pages to become effective on June 1, 2010, on less than statutory notice, 3) Grant the company's request for an exemption from WAC 480-70-271, Customer Notice, to allow the company to notify customers affected by the increased revised rates in the next billing cycle, and 4) Approve Tariff No. 15, filed on December 17, 2009, and substitute pages filed on May 14, 2010, to become effective June 1, 2010, on a permanent basis, on less than statutory notice. Commissioner Oshie seconded the motion. The motion carried (3:0)

The meeting recessed at 12:15 p.m.

RECESSED:

D)1. 00:00 mp3 (Part 2) Docket UE-100558; Special presentation by Columbia Grid regarding Regional Electric Transmission Planning, Special Presentation

Appearances: Steve Johnson and Dave Danner, staff; Jon Kakke and Jeff Miller, Columbia Grid

The meeting reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:30 p.m. Friday, May 28, 2010.

OTHER:

C)1. 00:00 mp3 (Part 3) Docket UW-100838; Commission Staff; Special presentation regarding enforcement of WAC 480-07-530, general rate proceeding for water companies. Special Presentation

Appearances: Anne Solwick, staff

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Attested by _____
David Danner, Executive Director and Secretary